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Dahlia News

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How to Grow Big Dahlias.

It has been said that no home is complete without a bed of dahlias and this is really true. They not only add beauty to the home but also do so with the least amount of effort. The man of the house will appreciate the fact that dahlias will not become a burden on his spare time. Just a little cultivating now and then will keep the bed in the best of condition.

Easy to Grow.

Probably more amateurs in the central states fail with dahlias than with any other flower, due to lack of knowledge how to give them proper care? Yet they are as easily grown as corn or potatoes if a few simple directions are followed carefully.

Dahlias should not be planted until late in the spring, until all danger of frost is past. They can be successfully planted even as late as June 25th. Dahlias are a fall flower, not a summer one. If planted too early they try to bloom in the hot summer spending most of their strength in doing so. That would cause the blooms to blast. The best flowers come from a quick, succulent growth helped by cool fall weather and heavy dews. Never plant dahlias in the shade of trees or buildings. They love sunshine and must have plenty of it to gain full growth and fine blooms.

Follow These Simple Instructions.

The large clumps of tubers dug in the fall should not be divided until you are ready to plant. Then divide carefully. **SO THAT SOME OF THE PARENT STOCK IS LEFT ON EACH TUBER.** (The sprouts come from the old parent stock and not from the tuber.) **ONLY ONE TUBER** should be planted in a hole six inches deep. **PLACE TUBER IN THE HOLE ON ITS SIDE,** never stand on end. Do not put any fertilizer or manure about tuber. Most dahlias like a poor soil. If too fertile they will go to tops at the expense of your flowers.

Plant your tubers two feet apart each way. When the growth is four inches high, pinch out center of the plant. This will cause the plant to branch out at base making a short stocky bush, shading the ground completely, conserving the moisture, also protecting the plant from blowing over in storms. **DON'T WATER DAHLIAS AT ANY TIME.** (We wish that could be printed in boxcar type so all folks could see and remember it.) Every time you want to water them. **DON'T DO IT.** Go out and hoe them instead. Furthermore, all during the summer from time plant is up until they start to bloom, go out and hoe, hoe, **HOE,** stirring the top surface soil after each rain. Never allow any weeds to grow near them or close to plant.

Of course in the south and west plain states where crops are irrigated dahlias must be watered some as they do other crops of vegetables or flowers.

Kansas Flowers To Mexico.

SHAWNEE, Kan.—Kansas dahlias will soon be beautifying the capitol grounds in the city of Mexico. Frank Payne, who has a flower farm here has received an order for fifty dahlia roots from President Ortiz Rubio of Mexico.

"Say It With Flowers!"

Blooms To Hospitals

Frank Payne Sends Gifts of Gladioli

Charity wards of Kansas City hospitals were brightened today with thousands of gladioli. The colorful blooms were gifts of Frank Payne, proprietor of Payne's Dahlia farm, one-half mile south of Shawnee, Kansas on U. S. 50.

Mr. Payne is one of the largest flower growers in the United States. He cultivates sixty acres of gladioli, dahlias and peonies, selling half a million bulbs each year throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Each season when the flowers bloom he gives the surplus to hospitals, churches and charity institutions. His gladioli started blooming a month ago and now his 10-acre gladioli field is a mass of blossoms. The blossoms are cut every morning and those which are not sold in commercial channels are given away. Mr. Payne said he expects to give away more than 100,000 blossoms this year.

The Payne flower farm is internationally known for its dahlias. In the test garden more than 300 varieties are cultivated. Mr. Payne said the recent rains assure the largest dahlia crop in the history of the farm. The dahlias start blooming about September 1.

Mr. Payne has a standing invitation to Kansas Cityans to visit his flower farm, especially in the dahlia season. Last year he entertained more than 30,000 visitors.

Beautify Your Home With Flowers

By Frank Payne in Kansas Farmer

Did you ever drive past a home and notice how beautiful it looked when a lot of old fashioned flowers were all around the house and in bloom? Made you feel as if you wanted to go in and visit. You knew they must be nice folks or they wouldn't love flowers. Flowers are a good investment, not an expense. A few dimes or a dollar spent for flowers to plant around your home will add fully \$100 to the sale value, and to its beauty. It makes no difference about the age of the house. Flowers are just as pretty around an old house as a new one.

There are lots of flowers easily grown in Kansas. They don't ask petting or scientific care—just plant, keep the weeds pulled out and hoe a little once in a while, "when you are resting." The easiest flowers to grow are those from bulbs. It soon will be time to plant Gladioli. I call them Glads for short. I will plant 10 acres this year—they do fine for us here in Kansas. Do you know the old-fashioned, common name for Glads? An elderly lady from Belgium told me they called them "The Twelve Apostles," back in the old country. I guess because they average about 12 blooms to a spike. No doubt the spike represents Jesus, as the blooms are closely attached to the spike, same as the Apostles were to Him.

Do you know that Glads can be planted so you can have bloom all summer and fall? Here's how we do it. Make the first planting just as soon as one can work the soil in the spring. The last three years that date has been about March 15. Plant 6 inches deep so a late freeze won't reach the bulbs. As soon as they come up, make another planting. When the second planting is up make a third. A last planting can be made June

Tulips Easy To Grow

While we grow more than 150 varieties of Tulips in our test gardens, yet some varieties seem to do better than others that are admired by most visitors. In the Darwins the most popular varieties are: Pride of Haarlem, dark red. Farncombe Sanders, bright scarlet. Clara Butt, rosy pink. Rev. Ewbank, lavender. Wm. Copeland, heliotrope. Valentine, blue violet. Zula, almost black. The most popular Breeders are: Louis XIV, purple and gold. Bronze Queen, bronze. Panorama, reddish mahogany. Cardinal Manning, purple and bronze. These varieties of Cottage types most popular are: John Ruskin, apricot. Inglescombe Yellow, sometimes called a yellow Darwin. Picotte, white with carmine edge. La Merville, a light orange, is sweet scented like the odor of crab apple blossoms.

Tulips are easy to grow. All their strength is stored up in the bulb so that drought or cold weather does not stop them from blooming. Plant in the fall and **LEAVE THEM IN THE SAME PLACE FOR THREE YEARS!**

You do not have to dig them up each year unless you should wish to change their location. You can grow tulips in many places where other flowers would not bloom. They can be planted in front of shrubs, around small trees, in partial shade, around buildings or in beds in your flower garden. The only place tulips cannot grow is in wet, soggy ground where water stands. Plant them eight inches deep and six inches apart for best results. After tulips bloom and the tops die down, you can sow flower seed or plant dahlias right over them and get two crops of flowers from the same space without harming or moving the tulip bulbs in any way. If your soil is a heavy, soggy clay, mix plenty of sand with it. Raise the bed in the center to allow for quick drainage of heavy rains. Never put any fertilizer or manures around, about, or over tulip bulbs—it is liable to rot the bulbs. If you are sure your soil needs fertilizer, put it on the year previous to planting. Do not be stingy in planting tulips. There are several reasons. They are not a bit expensive when you divide their cost over the three years of bloom you get from them. Remember that when your tulips bloom, no other flowers are in season. They have to carry the entire decoration of your home alone and will look much better if planted in masses. Using all one color around your home will make the best showing. More than two million tulips are planted around homes in Greater Kansas City and that sure helps to beautify the city in springtime. Are you doing your share to beautify your own home?

25, in Kansas. Last year we had bloom from June 20 to October 29. Glads must be planted in a sunny spot.

I grow 20 acres of dahlias on my farm near Shawnee, a suburb, 10 miles southwest of Kansas City. That ought to prove how much I love them. After we have had so many summer flowers, we welcome a change. And dahlias are rightly called the "Queen of Autumn Flowers." Lots of folks tell me dahlias are difficult to grow in Kansas. I haven't found them so. They are as easily grown as corn or potatoes. Just plant them

Tulip Show At Payne Farm

You are invited to our Tulip Show starting around the last week of April. Notices will be published in the Kansas City papers on the exact date the show opens. You will see more than thirty thousand tulips in bloom. 152 varieties, every color and type you can think of. There is no charge for the show, free parking too. Bring your friends and relatives. Tip toe through the Tulips and feast your eyes to your heart's content. You will be mighty welcome. Drive out to the Payne Dahlia Farm located one-half mile south of Shawnee, Kansas on U. S. Highway 50 and make yourself at home. Good roads paved all the way. When you see the notice in the papers remember you already have a personal invitation.

Payne Flowers Win Prizes

Seven entries of dahlias and gladioli from the Frank Payne dahlia farm, one-half mile south of Shawnee, took seven ribbons at the Missouri state fair at Sedalia.

The Queen of Autumn Flowers

My garden is my treasure-trove
With blossoms bright and fair;
It's not too large for me to know
Each bud that's blooming there.
I watch the seasons come and go.
The sunshine mixed with showers;
But I wait all summer long
The Queen of Autumn Flowers.

The dahlias bloom in splendor
there
Against my garden wall;
Their colors make me catch my
breath.
I want to hold them all.
I breathe a hymn of praise to God
As I spend many hours
Just gazing, raptured, loving thee.
The Queen of Autumn Flowers.

In mauve and white and scarlet
dress,
In coral, copper, gold,
My dahlias are a living fire—
More than my heart can hold.
My neighbors love to come and
see
My garden with its bowers,
And each enjoys thy glory there.
The Queen of Autumn Flowers.

Written by Miss Louise Mitchell of Shawnee, Kas., for the Payne Dahlia Farm. Miss Mitchell is a Junior at Park College, Parkville, Mo. She is never lonesome for Payne's Dahlias because Park College has been our good customers for many years.

at the right time, hoe often and you will be well repaid with a wealth of glorious blooms all fall until killing frosts come. Folks who have had failures with Dahlias in Kansas can turn failure into success if they try to grow them this year in that way.

Dahlias enjoy sunshine and should be planted in beds in your open garden. Do not plant in the shade or on the north side of buildings. They must not be planted until after May 1, in Kansas.

"Say It With Flowers!"

Retail List of Dahlia Varieties and Prices

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Send no money! Buy the Frank Payne way. We gladly trust flower lovers. We will enter your order, ship bulbs at proper planting time by mail, prepaid at our expense. A bill will be sent you after you receive bulbs and you can then mail us your check. Isn't that just as fair and square as can be? You couldn't ask for a fairer or better offer than that.

DECORATIVE

These dahlias are the largest size grown today, some are as large as dinner plates. They are double, with broad, flat petals.

* * * *

Mrs. I. D. Ver Warner—Mauve heliotrope. Large blooms from early to frost. We have reports from almost every state in the Union that this variety does well everywhere. No garden is complete without it. We will plant three acres of them this year to supply the demand. Order Mrs. Warner today—its guaranteed. Per tuber 75c.

Pride of California—Dark red. Large blooms, tall grower. Does well everywhere. Be sure to order some white dahlias to plant with this one. It makes your red dahlias loom up like a house afire. Only 35c per tuber.

Jean Kerr—Pure white. So far, this has proven the best white dahlia we have ever grown. We have tried lots of whites that were highly recommended but somehow they did not like our Kansas sunshine and dry weather like Jean Kerr does. Per tuber 50c.

Jersey Beauty—True pink. The best pink dahlia grown for cut flowers. This variety won sweepstake prize for three consecutive years at the Am. Dahlia Show. Monster flowers on long stems. (Note—The roots of Jersey Beauty are small, almost like rat tails. Don't expect large tubers. Seems like the smaller the tuber the larger bloom they have.) Price per tuber \$1.00 each.

Paul Michael—Pure gold with orange buff at center. Blooms early and freely. Per tuber \$1.00.

Mina Kay—Oriental scarlet. Our earliest bloomer. Large flowers on good stems. Very bright color, it almost dazzles you. Originated in Kansas. Our stock is limited so not more than two tubers will be sold to any one customer. Sorry, but we sold out of Mina Kay one year and had an awful time getting more stock. Price \$1.50 each.

Halo—Sulphur yellow. An unusual dahlia that is hard to describe. It has a two tone effect in sunlight or in shade. We have noticed our visitors who rave over the beauty of Halo are usually real flower lovers and appreciate something out of the ordinary. \$1.00 per tuber.

Oyster Bay Beauty—Dark Velvety red. Absolutely the best dark red dahlia we have ever grown. Blooms early and continues freely right up to killing frost. Large blooms that keep well when cut. If limited to only one red dahlia we would choose this one and be fully satisfied. Per tuber only \$2.00.

Marmion—Pure golden yellow. Monster blooms produced freely on long stems. You are sure to like Marmion. Per tuber \$2.50.

Queen of the Garden Beautiful—Primrose yellow. My, isn't that a big name. Here is the reason. It originated in San Quentin prison in California by a prisoner, grown from seed. (The prisoner is now released and is a good dahlia grower.) Blooms freely with large blooms, 10 to 12 inches across. Per tuber \$2.50.

Jane Cowl—Bronzy buff and salmon shades. A monster flower that grows tall and looks you right in the face. Some attain measurement as much as 14 inches across. Price \$2.50 per tuber.

Pride of Fort Morgan—Bright red. Giant blooms that sure dazzle your eyes. One of the best varieties of Colorado production. Per tuber \$2.50.

Florence Finger—Lavender pink. Nice blooms but it is not an early or a profuse bloomer for us. 75c a tuber.

POM PON TYPE

Baby dahlias less than two inches in diameter. Quilled petal like show dahlias. Excellent for table decorations or in small basket work.

Catherine—Canary yellow. Best bright yellow pompon dahlia grown. Has long stems. Blooms freely. Only 35c a tuber.

Little Johnny—Bright red. Makes the cutest bouquets. Blooms freely. 35c a tuber.

Snow Clad—Pure white. Goes mighty well planted with Little Johnny. 35c a tuber.

SHOW TYPE

This is the old fashioned ball, or honey comb petal dahlia that grandmother grew in her garden long ago. They are excellent for cut flowers, keeping longer than the large dinner plate size decoratives.

Yellow Duke—Canary yellow. The best show type dahlia grown. We grow an acre of Yellow Duke for florists because it's a good keeper. 35c a tuber.

Maude Adams—White, overlaid with lavender pink. Produces most blooms of any dahlia we have ever grown. Early bloomer too. 25c a tuber.

Bonnie Blue—Violet blue. The nearest blue dahlia grown. Blooms freely. (Tubers look like Irish potatoes.) 50c per tuber.

A. D. Livonia—Lavender pink. Produces a mass of flowers, so many they may be small unless disbudded. Very popular with florists. 35c a tuber.

Mrs. C. D. Anderson—Purplish crimson. Large flowers produced on a dwarf growing plant. 50c a tuber.

George Gero—Lavender pink. Very large flower. Tall growing. 50c each.

HYBRID CACTUS

These are fully double, with flat petals slightly twisted at the tips. They are sometimes called semi-cactus or informal decoratives. Some are almost as large as the decoratives.

Cigarette—Scarlet, tipped white. Good flowers on long stem. A good cut flower that keeps a long time. \$1.00 a tuber.

Gay Paree—Orange bronze, with autumn tints. Produced in France. Blooms freely. \$1.00 a tuber.

Papillon—Old rose, gold and apricot. This variety is an early bloomer. Large flowers with wavy petals. Reminds one of a beautiful colored butterfly. (Papillon means butterfly in French.) \$1.00 a tuber.

Fort Monmouth—Crimson wine. A monster bloom. 10 to 14 inches across. Grows tall. One flower is a real bouquet alone. A prize winner at all shows. \$5.00 a tuber and worth it too.

Edna Ferber—Coral and old gold. Heavy producer of beautiful blooms nine to twelve inches across. The longer you look at a bloom of Edna Ferber, the prettier it seems. Only \$2.50 a tuber.

Washington City—Pure white. Extra large flowers on long stems. 50c each.

TRITOMA (Red Hot Poker)

Sometimes called "Devil's Poker," "Flame Flower" or "Torch Lily." It is from the lily family. Hardy, but requires straw mulch during winter months. Produces orange color flowers on straight stems three feet tall. The blooms make wonderful fall decorations combined with oak leaves or plain garden asparagus. Blooms from August to killing freeze. Three plants post-paid for only \$1.00.

We Wholesale Dahlia Bulbs

If you wish bulbs in lots of fifty or more, we will gladly quote you wholesale prices if you will send us a list of your needs. We ship bulbs all over the United States and Canada to florists and flower growers to be used for cut flowers, also to the large seed stores and mail order houses. Give us a chance to figure with you and we can not only save you money but furnish some mighty good bulbs too.

SPECIAL AMATEURS COLLECTION

If my grandmother asked me, "Frank, tell me the seven best dahlias that are easiest for amateur flower growers to grow," here is the list I would recommend:

- Mrs. I. D. Ver Warner—(D), mauve heliotrope.
- Jean Kerr—(D) pure white.
- Pride of California—(D) dark red.
- Maude Adams—(S), white overlaid lavender pink.
- Jersey Beauty—(D) true pink.
- Yellow Duke—(S), canary yellow.
- Cigarette—(H.C.), scarlet, tipped white.

That list figures up exactly \$4.20 retail. As a special offer you may have them post-paid for \$3.48 and they are a bargain too. Just order the "\$3.48 Amateur Collection" today and they will be sent you at proper planting time. Your entire satisfaction is guaranteed or your money back. That ought to prove what we think of those varieties when we stand back of them that way.

Havard—Dark maroon. A pretty flower but we cannot brag on the amount of flowers produced. (Note—If a dahlia does not produce well for us we tell you so. It may hurt the sale of that variety, but we have at least had the pleasure of being honest to you.) Price per tuber \$1.50.

Kitty Dunlap—Cerise. Profuse bloomer of large size that keep well when cut. Per tuber \$1.00.

Amun Ra—Copper. Sometimes called "Sun God." You will like Amun Ra if you are fond of bright flowers and unique color. \$1.00 each.

Jersey Beacon—Chinese scarlet. Mammoth blooms on heavy stocks. You will admire this variety same as thousands of our visitors have each year. Per tuber \$1.50.

Special Offer

On all orders for ten dollars' worth of dahlia bulbs, one kind or assorted, we will include one rare variety as a surprise with our compliment. This will be marked so you can plant it and watch for results.

Sagamore—Golden yellow. The best golden yellow dahlia grown for cut flowers. We just can't grow enough to supply demands of our florists in Kansas City. Per tuber \$1.00.

King of Commerce—Orange tango. Good cut flower variety. Not large but a wonderful keeper when cut. Per tuber 50c.

Avalon—Clear canary yellow. Large blooms on tall stems well above foliage. Per tuber \$1.00.

Copper Bronze—The name tells its color. Blooms very freely on long slender stems. Flowers are not so large but mighty pretty. 75c tuber.

Champagne—Pinkish chamois color. Wonderful stems, large flowers. Blooms free and keeps well. Per tuber \$1.00.

Mrs. J. H. Dick—Citron yellow. Medium size. Lots of blooms. 35c a tuber.

Yellow Colosse—Canary yellow. Not a large type bloom, but it is beautiful with its lacy like foliage. Per tuber 50c.

Le Grande Manitou—Lilac, striped purple variegated. Dwarf bush. No two flowers alike even on same stem. A novelty. 50c a tuber.

Mail or Phone Your Order At Once to

FRANK PAYNE FARMS

Telephone Shawnee 1346

Shawnee, Kansas